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CLAIMS

1. A needle of the biopsy type or for taking other samples from human or animal organs, comprising an external cannula and a closing stem which can slide inside the cannula, characterized in that the cannula (1; 101; 201; 301; 401) has, for a certain stretch in the vicinity of the opening, one portion having a relatively small thickness (s) and one portion of larger thickness (s1) set at the penetrating mouth of the cannula, the two portions of cannula of different thickness forming together a step (1D; 101D; 201D; 301D; 401D) set inside the cannula and developed along a plane (W) inclined with respect to the axis (X-X; X1-X1) of the cannula; and in that inserted between the cannula (1; 101; 201; 301; 401) and the stem (3; 103; 203; 303; 403) is a withholding element (5; 105; 205; 305; 405) which can slide axially independently of the stem and of the cannula, and which has, in the vicinity of the mouth of the cannula, one end provided with a tab-like extension (5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C), which, with its sliding with respect to the cannula and in the direction of the mouth of the cannula, is designed to engage with said inclined step (1D; 101D; 201D; 301D; 401D) and to undergo deflection so as to close the mouth of the cannula and to withhold a tissue specimen inside the needle.

2. The biopsy needle according to Claim 1, characterized in that said tab-like extension (5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C) has a restricted region (5D; 105D; 205D; 305D; 405D) for connection with the withholding element (5; 105; 205; 305; 405) so as to facilitate said deflection.

3. The biopsy needle according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that said deflection of said tab-like extension (5C; 105C; 205C; 305C; 405C) takes place beyond the elastic limit of the latter and is generally permanent, in such a way that at least said withholding element (5) is of the disposable type.

4. The biopsy needle according to Claim 1, or 2 or 3, characterized in that said tab-like extension (105C) has side walls (105E) designed to contain the tissue specimen laterally.

5. The biopsy needle according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the external cannula (1; 101) has a polygonal cross

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section, for example a square cross section.

6. The biopsy needle according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the external cannula has a rounded cross section, for example a circular or elliptical cross section.

- 5        7. The biopsy needle according to at least Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it comprises a sliding element (307; 407) designed to be set in contrast with the tab (305C; 405C) to re-open said tab so as to facilitate extraction of the tissue specimen without damaging it.

- 10       8. The biopsy needle according to any one of the foregoing claims and particularly suited for taking intra-osseous samples, characterized in that the cannula has a penetrating end which is truncated at right angles with respect to the axis of the needle and is provided with a serrated edge, and in that the closing stem (413) has a faceted tip.

- 15       9) A needle of the biopsy type or for taking other samples from human or animal organs; the foregoing as described and as represented by way of example in the attached plate of drawings.